Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 19. (Canceled)

20.   (Currently Amended) A system for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the system comprising:

a storage component configured to store a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each data object ~~including~~ includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product; and

a processing component in communication with the storage component, the processing component being configured to:

receive, from a user affiliated with a first ~~business entity in the plurality of business entities~~ supplier, a request to access a data object in the plurality of data objects, wherein the ~~data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities~~ first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extract from the request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

retrieve a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier, the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determine, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generate a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmit the redacted version of the data object to the user,

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wherein the set of privileges are defined by the ~~second business entity~~ manufacturer based on ~~one or more~~ a business ~~agreements~~ agreement between the ~~second business entity~~ manufacturer and ~~one or more third business entities in the plurality of business entities~~ a second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data that is sensitive to the second supplier ~~for handling information in the product supply chain that is confidential to the one or more third business entities~~.

21.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

22.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

23.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

24.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

25.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

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26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain, the method comprising:

storing, by a computer system, a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product;

receiving, by the computer system, ~~from a user affiliated with a first business entity in the plurality of business entities,~~ a request to access a data object in [[a]] the plurality of data objects from a user affiliated with a first supplier, wherein the ~~data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities~~ first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extracting, by the computer system, ~~from the request~~ a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user from the request;

retrieving, by the computer system, a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier, the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determining, by the computer system, ~~based on the read privileges,~~ one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view based on the read privileges;

generating, by the computer system, a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmitting, by the computer system, the redacted version of the data object to the user,

wherein the set of privileges are defined by the ~~second business entity~~ manufacturer based on ~~one or more~~ a business ~~agreements~~ agreement between the ~~second~~

~~business entity~~ manufacturer and ~~one or more third business entities in the plurality of business~~

~~entities~~ a second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to

the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement

indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data that is sensitive to the second

supplier ~~for handling information in the product supply chain that is confidential to the one or~~

~~more third business entities~~.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the plurality of

predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents

associated with the data object.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the plurality of

predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of

data objects.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the data object

includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development

data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of

material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product

supplier data.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of

privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data

object that the user is allowed to modify.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of

privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data

object that the user is allowed to delete.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the set of

privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.

34.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a series of instructions which, when executed by a processing component, cause the processing component to facilitate the sharing of data among a plurality of business entities involved in a product supply chain by:

storing a plurality of data objects pertaining to a product, wherein each data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the plurality of data objects are maintained by a manufacturer of the product;

receiving, from a user affiliated with a first ~~business entity in the plurality of business entities~~ supplier, a request to access a data object in [[a]] the plurality of data objects, wherein the ~~data object includes a plurality of predefined data groups, and wherein the data object is owned by a second business entity in the plurality of business entities~~ first supplier supplies to the manufacturer a first component for the product;

extracting from the request a user identifier that uniquely identifies the user;

retrieving a set of privileges associated with the data object and the user identifier, the set of privileges including read privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to view;

determining, based on the read privileges, one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view;

generating a redacted version of the data object, wherein the redacted version of the data object does not include the one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is not allowed to view; and

transmitting the redacted version of the data object to the user,

wherein the set of privileges are defined by the ~~second business entity~~ manufacturer based on ~~one or more~~ a business ~~agreements~~ agreement between the ~~second business entity~~ manufacturer and ~~one or more third business entities in the plurality of business entities~~ a second supplier distinct from the first supplier, wherein the second supplier supplies to the manufacturer a second component for the product, and wherein the business agreement indicates that the first supplier should not have access to data that is sensitive to the second

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supplier ~~for handling information in the product supply chain that is confidential to the one or more third business entities~~.

35. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups include a group of attributes of the data object and a group of documents associated with the data object.

36. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the plurality of predefined data groups further include a group of links to other data objects in the plurality of data objects.

37. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the data object includes data selected from a group consisting of: product design data, product development data, product supply chain data, business relationship data, business agreement data, bill of material data, change order data, product cost data, product specifications data, and product supplier data.

38. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes write privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to modify.

39. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes delete privileges identifying one or more predefined data groups of the data object that the user is allowed to delete.

40. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the set of privileges includes a privilege that allows the user to add new data groups to the data object.